

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, May 11 - 7:30 p.m.

Ordinance 10-O-04
An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of
College Park, Maryland to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2011
Operating and Capital Budget of the City of College Park, Maryland

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Nagle, Wojahn, Catlin, Perry, Cook, Afzali, and Mitchell.

ABSENT: Councilmember Stullich

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Leo Thomas, Deputy Director of Finance; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Becca Lurie, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Groh gave an overview: He reviewed the items in the budget handout. This budget includes no property tax increase and an increase in three fees and penalties.

Comments from the audience:

Lisa Ealley, 9526 Rhode Island Avenue: She is the treasurer of Meals on Wheels of College Park. They serve 60 people in the College Park, Greenbelt and Beltsville area. They charge customers \$5 per day for three meals a day. They rely on donations but donations have recently dropped off and expenses have increased. Funding from the state and county and from local businesses has been cut. They don't want to raise the cost to their clients because they can't afford it. If things don't improve, they may have to close down at the end of the year. She asked the Council to consider giving Meals on Wheels a line item in the budget.

Tim Miller, 5119 Niagara Place: Mr. Miller began his comments by urging the Council to vote against the collective bargaining agreement and employee pay raises. Mayor Fellows asked Mr. Miller to save his comments for the agenda item on the collective bargaining agreement.

Marcia Booth, 5208 Huron Street: Her comments regarded the direct grant to the College Park Boys and Girls Club – what kind of reporting does the CPB&G Club provide to the city for the use of these tax dollars? She has seen a decrease in the amount of activity at Duvall Field and wants to know how the money is being spent. She thinks that money could be used for another worthwhile program. Next year she wants to see a breakdown of the revenue and expenses of the parking and code enforcement departments – do the departments break even or are they

making money? Does staff bring in enough revenue to cover the expense of having so many people on the staff?

Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road: Asked if this budget is less than last year's? Mr. Groh said yes: last year's was \$13,256 million and this year it is \$12,650 million. Mr. Dorsch said that was good, and next year we should try to tighten it more, because revenues are going to continue to fall. Government should do what only they can do. Some of these other programs are extras – we should realign priorities.

Mary Lintner, College Park Boys & Girls Club, 5030 Laguna Road: Thanked the Council for their past and continued support of the Boys & Girls Club. Club membership has fallen over the years. They have purchased baseball equipment (helmets, bats, catchers gear), a fryer for the snack bar, and started a Lacrosse program. They understand the need to reduce the grant but they are being impacted by the bad economy, too: two of their past sponsors have closed (Moe's and Merchants Tire). They try to keep registration fees affordable; registration fees go toward uniforms, league fees and the awards banquet.

Councilmembers Wojahn and Perry asked Ms. Lintner to provide detailed information about how the Boys & Girls club spends the funding they receive from the City.

Councilmember Mitchell asked if they are a 501(c)(3) organization? No, they are not.

Maxine Gross, Lakeland Community Heritage Project: Thanked the Council for the grants they have been able to give in the past and the funding that is proposed for the coming fiscal year. She outlined recent activities of the LCHP.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Fellows adjourned the Public Hearing on Ordinance 10-O-04 at 8:08 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date Approved